

Public Health Searching: Reflections & Practical Tips

Looking at:

- Who local Public Health are (and how they have changed) – how they differ from NHS, PHE etc. and how this impacts on what they want
- Tips/useful sites etc.

What is a Public Health Search?

- What are effective school-based child obesity interventions?
- What are the barriers to early recognition of respiratory illness in long term care facilities?
- Novel approaches to surveillance of polio?
- Why are (Northern) women dying earlier?
- What methods employed in propagation, quantification & classification of Staphylococcus Bacteriophages?
- How effective is 'back-up' prescribing in primary care/community settings?
- Monkey Pox – How long does it last in the environment and best practice in decontamination...
- What is the role of nutrition on 'healthy aging' among older adults?

Key Points

- Public Health covers a wide range of topics that overlap with other areas
- Local Public Health often has a narrower health focus – health improvement/supporting primary care but wider social focus – non traditional health topics – looking at the wider system/determinants and how that impacts population health which has even less coverage in traditional evidence sources!

<p>Population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – What/Who is local Public Health and how is it different? <p>Intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “I’ll have one of each!” <p>Comparison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “I saw this on Twitter and thought...” “I like what Sheffield are doing...” <p>Outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Best Value, Politically acceptable.
--

Who are LA Public Health in 2018?

Population:

- Mandated services such as child measurements/health trainers (commissioner instead of provider)
- Not all background in health
- High staff turnover post 2013
- Public Health now covers/influences ‘more than health’ – this is a good thing
- LA’s look local first & political – new staff reflect that.

Intervention

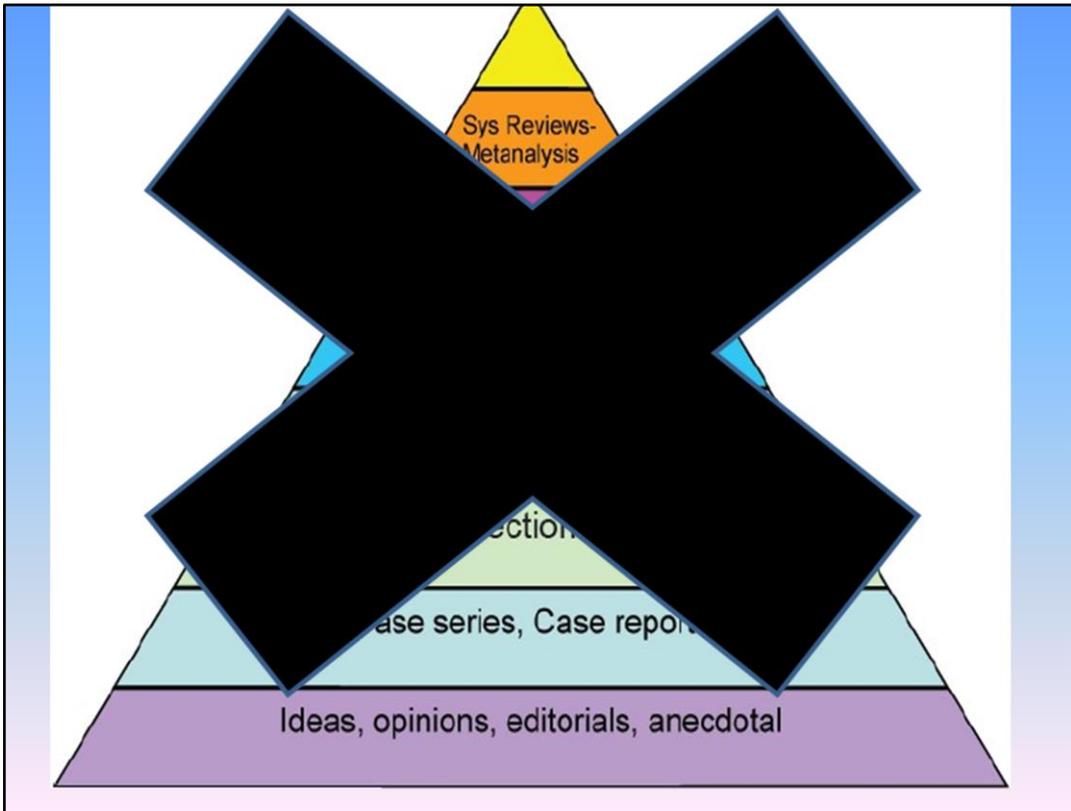
- ‘just what works’ – which approach meets criteria – what do we understand?
- Non-health background reduces understanding of evidence

Comparison –

- Inwards/improving what is being done – not much collaboration (though exceptions to this – look North East!)

Outcomes –

- Cost effective? Will it get through all the mechanisms? Is it politically acceptable for the locale?



Key Points

- Locally generated and relevant evidence tops High Quality evidence.
- Making excellent evidence relevant to local need is a must (but massively challenging!) – **This is vital!**
- It's a complex, political system which heavily shapes what and how PH operates (both for good and bad) and what the needs of PH are...

Hints & Tips

- To PICO or Not PICO?
- A right fine...MESH
- Promoting Exclusion

PICO

- PICO is not always relevant to PH searches.
- Whatever works best for you is best!
- Struggling? Break search into themes and see how they combine.
- Useful Site - Pubvenn: <https://pubvenn.appspot.com/>

MESH

- Not always PH friendly AND deffo not commissioning friendly
- There is no secret set of terminology
- Often end up with long search strings but high exclusion criteria...
- Take advantage of database functions – proximity searching
- Useful site: MESH on Demand: <https://meshb.nlm.nih.gov/MeSHonDemand>

Exclusion Criteria is useful

- 'want everything on'... No you don't. Find out the question they want answering.
- What terms ***must*** it have
- Limits – **push for them** – quality isn't always applicable as it may be an emerging evidence base
- Quality is a nice but is research relevant?
- Useful site - ISSG Filters: <https://sites.google.com/a/york.ac.uk/issg-search-filters-resource/home>

Final Thoughts

- Grey literature/non-traditional sites
- Google Advanced can be helpful (minutes/briefings)
- 'Nothing new' in commissioning
- Go big and screen down...
- **KEY POINT...**
- **You are the Experts in evidence...no matter the topic!**

The answer may not be in traditional evidence. Again relevance not excellence

What have others done (and is it evidence based)- nothing new in LA commissioning

Often a wide search – but easy to screen out

Do they want the pieces to the answer – or the answer?

You are the experts in evidence –no matter the topic

Useful Sites

- MESH on Demand: <https://meshb.nlm.nih.gov/MeSHonDemand>
- Pubvenn: <https://pubvenn.appspot.com/>
- Pubreminer: <https://hgserver2.amc.nl/cgi-bin/miner/miner2.cgi>
- Epistemonikos - <https://www.epistemonikos.org/en/>
- ISSG Filters: <https://sites.google.com/a/york.ac.uk/issg-search-filters-resource/home>

MOD – any MESH?

Pubvenn – Visualisation of search

Pubreminer – analysis of research points

Episot... what do HQ results reference?

Filters – some useful filters for all

Further Reading

- Anderson, W., Cheeseman, H. and Butterworth, G. (2017). Political priorities and public health services in English local authorities: the case of tobacco control and smoking cessation services. *Journal of Public Health*, 40(3), pp.e269-e274.
- Atkins, L., Kelly, M., Littleford, C., Leng, G. and Michie, S. (2017). Reversing the pipeline? Implementing public health evidence-based guidance in english local government. *Implementation Science*, 12(1).
- Ayiku, L., Levay, P., Hudson, T., Craven, J., Barrett, E., Finnegan, A. and Adams, R. (2017). The medline UK filter: development and validation of a geographic search filter to retrieve research about the UK from OVID medline. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 34(3), pp.200-216.
- Curtis, K., Fulton, E. and Brown, K. (2018). Factors influencing application of behavioural science evidence by public health decision-makers and practitioners, and implications for practice. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 12, pp.106-115.
- Kastner, M et al Age-specific search strategies for Medline. *Journal of medical Internet research*, 8(4), e25
- Kelly, M., Atkins, L., Littleford, C., Leng, G. and Michie, S. (2017). Evidence-based medicine meets democracy: the role of evidence-based public health guidelines in local government. *Journal of Public Health*, 39(4), pp.678-684.
- Kneale, D et al (2017) The use of evidence in English local public health decision-making: a systematic scoping review." *Implementation Science* 12 (1) 53-
- Lewis, S., Damarell, R., Tieman, J. and Trenerry, C. (2018). Finding the Integrated Care Evidence Base in PubMed and Beyond: A Bibliometric Study of the Challenges. *International*

Further Reading (Full List)

- Anderson, W., Cheeseman, H. and Butterworth, G. (2017). Political priorities and public health services in English local authorities: the case of tobacco control and smoking cessation services. *Journal of Public Health*, 40(3), pp.e269-e274.
- Atkins, L., Kelly, M., Littleford, C., Leng, G. and Michie, S. (2017). Reversing the pipeline? Implementing public health evidence-based guidance in english local government. *Implementation Science*, 12(1).
- Ayiku, L., Levay, P., Hudson, T., Craven, J., Barrett, E., Finnegan, A. and Adams, R. (2017). The medline UK filter: development and validation of a geographic search filter to retrieve research about the UK from OVID medline. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 34(3), pp.200-216.
- Curtis, K., Fulton, E. and Brown, K. (2018). Factors influencing application of behavioural science evidence by public health decision-makers and practitioners, and implications for practice. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 12, pp.106-115.
- Kastner, M et al Age-specific search strategies for Medline. *Journal of medical Internet research*, 8(4), e25
- Kelly, M., Atkins, L., Littleford, C., Leng, G. and Michie, S. (2017). Evidence-based medicine meets democracy: the role of evidence-based public health guidelines in local government. *Journal of Public Health*, 39(4), pp.678-684.
- Kneale, D et al (2017) The use of evidence in English local public health decision-making: a systematic scoping review." *Implementation Science* 12 (1) 53-
- Lewis, S., Damarell, R., Tieman, J. and Trenerry, C. (2018). Finding the Integrated Care Evidence Base in PubMed and Beyond: A Bibliometric Study of the Challenges. *International Journal of Integrated Care*, 18(3).

- van der Graaf, P., Cheetham, M., McCabe, K. and Rushmer, R. (2018). Localising and tailoring research evidence helps public health decision making. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 35(3), pp.202-212

Also check out: <https://wordpress.com/post/michaelhealthlibrarian.wordpress.com/1823>

Open invitation of support/critical friend for Public Health Searching:

[@The Mr Cook](#)

Michael.cook@bolton.gov.uk